

STATEMENT OF
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COMMANDER,
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BEFORE THE COMMISSION ON THE NATIONAL GUARD
AND RESERVES
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Mr. Chairman, Members of the Commission, it is an honor to appear before you today to provide the views of the U.S. European Command (EUCOM) on the current role of the Reserve Components in EUCOM and their importance to preserving and strengthening our trans-Atlantic relationships.

As you know, EUCOM and the NATO Alliance are undergoing a significant transformation aimed at increasing strategic effectiveness to meet the challenges of the 21st Century. Like EUCOM and NATO, the Commission on the Guard and

Reserve has undertaken an examination of the best options for reform to keep pace with the changing global security environment. The Commission's mandate to review the wide spectrum of how the National Guard and Reserves are tasked, organized, trained, equipped and compensated in order to meet the national security needs of the United States is an essential requirement for a thorough transformation and a ready force. We must ensure our Reserve Components remain prepared to address the ever changing security landscape.

Reserve Component forces are ever present across EUCOM's 92-country area of responsibility (AOR). A key aspect of EUCOM's overall strategy is a robust Theater Security Cooperation (TSC) program, through which we proactively engage to help prevent conflict. This strategy helps us enhance the military capacities of our partner nations. The many skill sets and capabilities resident in the National Guard and Reserves are of significant importance to the success of our TSC programs.

Reserve Component personnel deployed throughout the region, significantly contribute to EUCOM's mission by fully integrating into critical roles: command and control, airlift, airborne tankers, engineering, force protection, special operations and intelligence. Each day we are privileged to have an average of 4,500 Reserve and Guard personnel serving in the EUCOM AOR. Simply put, the Reserve Components play a vital role in support of the EUCOM mission.

Members of the Reserve Components make up over ten percent of the uniformed personnel at EUCOM Headquarters. They provide not only their military expertise across all staff directorates but also bring unique skill sets and important relationships outside the Department of Defense. They are an important part of the synchronization process required to effectively lead a Command with the variety of tasks that EUCOM is assigned. As you are well aware, EUCOM is the major hub for throughput of troops and equipment deploying forward to the

CENTCOM AOR. Reserve and Guard members are managing logistics requirements, flying airlift missions and operating on airfields and in ports to keep the flow of personnel and materials moving forward. As an example, EUCOM, recently augmented with Reserve Component forces, provided considerable support to Joint Task Force – Lebanon and the resultant evacuation operation. EUCOM’s established relationships and infrastructure provided the logistical, political, military, and commercial capabilities to help ensure the NEO was a success.

Theater intelligence assets are also highly dependent on the tremendous analytical skills that our Reserve Component members bring to the command. There are a combined total of over 560 Reserve and Guard members currently supporting the EUCOM Joint Intelligence Operations Center, Intelligence Mission Operations Center, and the Joint Analysis Center (JAC). Reserve Component members at the JAC produce more than 30 percent of

the intelligence products provided in support of operations throughout the Command.

Many of our exercise related construction projects across the EUCOM AOR are engineered and built by Guard and Reserve units. The 235th Civil Engineering Flight from the Maryland Air National Guard deploys to Israel annually in support of our JUNIPER STALLION series of exercises. They have provided resounding continuity, covering numerous construction projects with this important ally. Additionally, the contributions made by National Guard and Army Reserve engineering units at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center at Grafenwoehr, Germany, in tandem with engineers from Azerbaijan and Estonia, resulted in a savings of \$3.6M. These units rotated through on annual training status throughout 2006, constructing facilities for training in an urban environment.

Three companies of Army National Guard military policeman provide world class force protection across several

regions within Germany. These Soldiers are fully engaged in community law enforcement activities, ensuring security and safety for our installations and families. Their efforts allow vitally needed active duty forces to be used for other operations throughout the AOR.

Reserve Component contributions aren't limited to EUCOM alone. Last year, a 35-man special operations detachment from the West Virginia Guard deployed in support of NATO's Rapid Reaction Forces. Additionally, SHAPE headquarters maintains a considerable Reserve Component presence, supporting our intelligence efforts as we develop the Intelligence Fusion Cell based at the Joint Analysis Center – Molesworth. This provides intelligence support to NATO strategic and operational requirements within its Article V area of operations, as well as for the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan.

Reserve Component personnel provide staff support to every NATO Response Force (NRF) STEADFAST EX series of

validation and certification exercises. Reservists currently serve as an integral core of the U.S. Delegation to the NATO Military Committee. On the operational side, Air National Guard tankers provide the majority of airborne tanker support for NATO's AWACS aircraft while the Air National Guard and Air Reserve provide lift support to USAFE. Additionally, the Maritime Domain Awareness/White-Shipping Tracking Cell is entirely manned by Reservists. National Guard and Reserve personnel provide significant U.S. leadership to NATO, and in so doing, strengthen the trans-Atlantic relationship.

Of incalculable benefit, are the Reserve/Guard contributions to ongoing operational missions. The Reserve Components are major players in Peacekeeping Operations in the Balkans and in Africa. Bosnia and Kosovo operations are almost exclusively executed by the Army National Guard and Army Reserve, with approximately 1,800 Guard and Reserve personnel serving in the Balkans. Guard and Reserve members also serve as mentors to the

African Contingency Operations Training and Assistance (ACOTA) program, providing valuable peacekeeping operations training to units from a number of African nations.

The Reserve Components are also an integral factor in a new initiative, the Maritime Partnership Program. Within this program, Navy Reservists work with countries in the Gulf of Guinea, Black Sea and Caspian Sea regions, assisting in building local maritime security procedures and protecting precious natural resources such as oil, gas and fishing. Many of the humanitarian assistance programs in Eastern Europe and in Africa are manned by Reserve Component Personnel who are providing much needed medical and dental care and assisting in land-mine removal.

One program that provides tremendous returns on our efforts to build bilateral relationships is the State Partnership Program (SPP). This unique program brings together National Guard leaders from a particular state to develop a relationship with specific countries enhancing not only military-to-military contacts,

but also civilian-to-military and civilian-to-civilian contacts. We currently have 20 of our States partnered with European nations and 5 States partnered with nations in Africa. Our most recent partnership is with Nigeria and the State of California.

The State Partnership Program has had a tremendous impact on the transition of former Soviet-bloc states into NATO and with coalition partners that assist in the Global War on Terrorism. I believe we can attribute the many successes of democratization and transformation of these former Soviet militaries to the State Partnership Program.

The Reserve Components are active in every aspect of EUCOM operations. Gone are the days when the Reserves and Guardsman show up at our command in order to complete their two weeks of annual training. From conducting special operations to watch standing, Reserve Component forces are fully integrated into the daily EUCOM battle rhythm. They are assigned to critical positions and are essential in achieving EUCOM's theater goals.

As the U.S. military in Europe and Africa shifts from a static, forward-deployed force to a more dynamic expeditionary force, I foresee numerous opportunities to use the Reserve and National Guard in innovative and resourceful ways during their annual training periods. Should EUCOM be given additional flexibilities and authorities with our resources, the Reserve Component could be used even more effectively. Examples of Reserve Component support during these annual training periods that could be enhanced include medical units providing support at U.S. bases in Europe, Engineer construction programs, Infantry opposition forces (OPFOR) for pre-deployment training and exercises, MP force security missions at U.S. Bases, Military Intelligence analytical support to EUCOM and NATO, Humanitarian Assistance such as de-mining assessments and training and Military Assistance to Civil Authorities such as Civil Support Teams.

A key benefit of your Commission lies in its ability to address legislative restrictions, DoD policies, and Service processes that impede efforts to efficiently and effectively employ these talented men and women. I hope the findings and recommendations of this Commission will result in a more clearly defined and updated directives concerning Reserve Component Support to Joint and Coalition operational units. Directives which provide clear authority to the Combatant Commander and streamline funding provisions for such activities will advance the current management and employment processes of our Reserve Component personnel.

In my view, there are two major initiatives that will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Reserve Components in their support of EUCOM's missions. First and foremost, our military needs a single integrated pay and personnel system for the Active and Reserve Components. Having separate pay and personnel systems creates unnecessary complexities which

significantly slow both the mobilization process and our ability to reach out to Reserve Component volunteers across all Services on a day-to-day basis.

Secondly, I believe that the labyrinth of duty statuses for Reservists and Guardsmen serves as a major impediment to effectively and efficiently access operational and support forces. We should strive within the Department of Defense to reduce the number of Reserve Component duty statuses to improve operations and to achieve equality in pay and benefits with the Active Component personnel serving EUCOM.

The wide scope and unpredictable nature of this new security landscape compels us to develop new strategies to better harmonize the full spectrum of national influence. This harmonization should include maximizing the full potential of our Reserve Components as a ready, operational volunteer force, not just a strategic asset for mobilization. Thank you for allowing me to appear here today to provide my perspective on National Guard

and Reserve contributions to U.S. European Command and contribute to the important work that constitutes such a crucial aspect to our nation's future security.